

COLORADO METHAMPHETAMINE TASK FORCE

Meeting January 26, 2007

Colorado Municipal League

1144 Sherman St., Denver

10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Chair – Attorney General John Suthers

Vice –Chairs:

- *Treatment* – Janet Wood, Director, Behavioral Health Services, CDHS
- *Prevention* – José Esquibel, Director, Interagency Prevention Systems, CDPHE
- *Law Enforcement* – Lori Moriarty, Commander, Thornton Police, Department, North Metro Drug Task Force

Task Force Members Present:

Attorney General John Suthers; Lori Moriarty, Commander, Thornton Police Dept., North Metro Drug Task Force; Jeannie Smith, Deputy District Attorney; José Esquibel, CO Dept of Public Health & Environment; Dave Thomas, Executive Director, CDAC; Carmelita Muniz, Director, CO Assoc. of Alcohol and Drug Service Providers; Tara Trujillo, Colorado Children's Campaign; Dr. Kathryn Wells, Denver Health; Dr. Nick Taylor, Taylor Behavioral Health; Dr. Wayne Maxwell, North Range Behavioral Health; Janelle Krueger, CDE; Bob Watson, District Attorney, 13th JD; Chief Gary Hamilton, Cripple Creek Police Department; Erin Goff, Colorado Municipal League; Tim Griffin, Div. of Adult Parole; Tom Quinn, Director of Probation Services; Judge James Hiatt, 8th Judicial District; Stan Hilkey, Mesa County Sheriff; Jeannene Miller, CO Dept of Corrections/Parole; Petra Abram, RxM, Walgreen's,

Guest:

Sherry Green, Esq., Executive Director of the National Alliance of Model State Drug Laws; Pat Sullivan, Cherry Creek Schools; Brian Mattson, National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children; Dennis Dahlke, SUCAP; Colleen Brisnehan, CO Dept Public Health & Environment.

NEXT STEPS –

- a. Vice-Chair Esquibel will contact Ms. Summer Wright to obtain the PowerPoint presentation and forward the file to Jeanne for posting on the AG's Web site.
- b. Vice-Chair Moriarty will meet with representatives of the Daniel's Fund to discuss the outcomes of today's Meth Task Force meeting and to discuss the direction of the blueprint.
- c. Carmelita Muniz will email the Colorado equality laws matrix to Jeanne Smith and Ms. Smith will send it out to the Task Force members

Introductions: Attorney General John Suthers welcomed the group.

Review and Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the November 14, 2006, meeting were reviewed and approved with the following minor changes:

- Add Stan Hilkey and Janet Rowland's name to the list of attendees and remove Nick Taylor from the list of attendees.

Annual Report to the Legislature: John Suthers

Thank you to the vice chairs, particularly Vice Chair Esquibel, for putting the report together. Since the report was published, the data confirms that in rural communities it is the disproportional drug of choice, whereas in the urban areas meth is just one of the drugs of choice, and that there is higher proportion of females abusing meth.

Attorney General Suthers mentioned that there has been no reaction from the legislature regarding the report.

Task Force members expressed appreciation for the report addressing the treatment side of this problem.

The work of the Task Force in determining priorities is reflected in the report.

Carmilta Muniz presented the report to her group of treatment providers. The group realizes that they need to step up to the plate in addressing this issue.

The local Meth Task Force in Teller County reviewed the report and the members expressed the desire that the work of the State Meth Task Force also addresses the broad scope of drugs, knowing meth is one of the drugs of choice for some people.

On the tribal reservations there is a higher use of meth among the Indian population, 1.7% of vs .7% in the non-Indian population.

Chief probations officers found the report's approach to be very well planned and laid out.

Next year's report needs to continue to add additional data and address what should be done or could be done on the treatment side of this problem in Colorado as well as prevention and criminal justice.

There will be higher expectations next year from the legislature.

Updates:

Funding – Vice-Chair Moriarty

- Vice Chair Moriarty met with representatives of the Daniel's Fund in the last three weeks. The Daniel's Fund is very excited about the task force activities and wants to know what can they do to help. They are willing to provide financial support for test sites. They are waiting on the State Meth Task Force to take the next steps and have been talking to El Pomar Foundation.
- How can these foundations help us? If we can present them with worthwhile grant proposals, they are eager to invest the money to help us with various projects.

National Methamphetamine Treatment Assessment Report

- Copies were provided to the members of the State Meth Task Force for their reference and information.
- We can be a resource to this group that put this report together.

National Methamphetamine Media Campaign: Meth 360 – Vice Chair Esquibel

- Colorado is one of ten states that will be doing this media campaign. It is called 360 because meth comes at us from all sides. We haven't heard who the media contact is in this state but Vice Chair Wood has been contacted. The staff from Partnership for a Drug Free America is the driving force behind the campaign and they will send a group out to meet and train the community. Vice Chair Esquibel will coordinate with Vice Chair Wood on gathering more information about the media campaign.
- The partnership is connected with CADCA and CADCA does reach out to the communities.
- What is the impact of this campaign in the states where they have been launched? Where do the calls go? What are the expectations? Who fields the calls?
- Lori will follow up with a meeting with Mike Townsend next week in Iowa.

Presentation: Sherry Green

Sherry is the Executive Director of the National Alliance of Model State Drug Laws. Her organization is a non-profit, funded by Congress and was asked to work with states to improve the state laws on Drug and Alcohol. Three federal agencies, (Office of National Drug Control Policy; Office of Justice Programs/Bureau of Justice Assistance, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) asked her group to hold four regional planning meetings to gather information on what the state needs are to address the Meth issues. The regional meetings should include counties and tribal governments to discuss the issues.

Summary of the conference:

1. Fifteen states attend the western meeting held October 5-6, 2006 in Salt Lake City, UT.
2. The results of this conference were to
 - create a legislative and policy action plan for each state. Identify laws and policies currently in each state that are addressing the issues and see what can be duplicated in other states.
 - identify issues and problems that are across multiple states
 - work with tribal governments to identify the tribes needs and issues, and
 - research the need for federal assistance and to clarify issues and concerns that may require help from all forms of federal, state, county and tribal governments.
3. On the national and federal level a national meth-clearing house is being created by USAG. This agency will be pulling together all the data to fill in the gaps for a comprehensive strategy plan.
4. Last year all states focused on meth lab reduction. This focus created the need to improve the treatment side of meth issues. This also created awareness for the need for intervention and prevention efforts.
5. Other states are looking at the treatment side of the issue, at workforce development, and at different ways to increase the drug and enforcement agencies and personnel. Some states are focusing on the education/prevention. States are looking at evidenced based programs.
6. One main issue discussed is how to get resources to the underserved areas? One thought is in regard to developing grassroots efforts to help with the educational prevention in the rural areas.
7. Other recommendations were in regard to clean up and remediation laws. The western states have taken the lead on this. As more states are trying to develop the laws, they are looking at creative ways of obtaining funding to do this. Some states are requiring the

owners to be responsible to clean up. MN has created an open fund, and grant process that people can apply for assistance.

8. Research strategies show that there is not enough research of the long-term effects of meth labs on the environment. The question now is “how clean does something have to be?” The EPA has developed a document and guidelines are being developed to address this topic. New bill mandates that EPA research long term effects.
9. Supply reduction is the other focus. States need to look at importation from Mexico. States need to look at penalties for trafficking, and also look at seizure laws, especially if cars have been modified to hold drugs. Partnerships are being created with some of the industries, such as FedEx and the U.S. Postal Service to address trafficking by mail.
10. 41 states already have restrictions on what a person can purchase at one time in regard to over the counter or restricted pharmaceuticals. Currently, pharmacies are trying to put the tracking system in place. The systems would actually track the items purchased by a person in certain areas. There is hope that the systems will track in “real time”, which would tell the pharmacist if a particular person has already purchased the item(s) elsewhere and when. Walgreen’s already has this system. The other thing they are working on is to make one system work across the 50 states.

Questions and Dialogue:

- Colorado is ahead of the game. We are there on the national level.
- HB 365 – is Colorado on board with this? We have only seen the strategies on this. EPA has committed to helping with the cleanup. Contamination from smoking meth is more important to clean up vs the clean up of lab. Research is not sure what the long term effects are in the clean-up from a meth smoking environment. There is support from the Congress but EPA needs to understand what it is, that each state needs.
- What are they talking about with regard to evidence based – are they talking just treatment or especially meth treatment?
- Regarding the media campaign – is it being based on meth or marijuana? Hope to get the answer from Bob Dennison. This would be great if they track outcomes from the prior marijuana media campaign. How do you capture the results? For instance Montana Meth Project, a one-man shop, has used different evaluations.
- Is there discussion going on in the southern part of the state to reduce trafficking? Nothing specific, at this time but there is some work going on with the state parole.
- Will the state patrol be trained on the drug trafficking issues along with the immigration issues? At this time, no.
- Currently, on the Indian reservations and areas, there are unprotected areas of the state boarder that the small tribes cannot prevent drug trafficking.
- Have we approached the Tribal representatives? Yes, there have been some discussions regarding this issue. With the change of laws the tribes cannot focus on this issues. Model codes are currently being discussed with the tribes. Southern Ute is currently working with the county to address some of the issues. One of the things is we need to provide treatment services for the tribes. The help needs to be comprehensive.
- Medicaid has money available to help the tribes with treatment and education but the bills to support this effort have been stalled in the legislative process. Colorado is the only state that does not use this Medicaid money. Carmelita will write a summary of what has happened and will send it to this committee for review.
- There are talks between Mexican and US. Mexico is legally importing twice as much of the drugs to produce meth. The Mexican government will need to have some heavy monetary incentives to import only what is really needed.

- State law regarding treatment issue, we need to reduced beds in prisons and send the money to the treatment side. 2.5 million dollars are to be distributed by local agencies for treatment.
- We need to be aware of the effect of reduction of drugs. We need to have the capacity to handle the load of drug busts, prisons expense etc
- One of the recommendations at that time had to do with standards of health care with school age K-12, in your findings, have they compared any other programs? There is a chart reviewing the laws and how it is framed, it addresses the substance abuse.
- Western Colorado activities: Treatment providers are finding that evidenced based models do not always work in rural areas. Rick Rawson has created some evidence parameters instead of models. If a program is working within the parameter there is some success. Delta County has used the model; it is called the Delta Model. Treatment based task force. If we don't have effective treatment, it doesn't matter. There is a flexible model that can be used for the rural areas that are not able to use the national models.

Blueprint for Addressing Meth Issues: Vice Chair Moriarty

Went through the past the months of meeting minutes and the annual report to create the blueprint. To gather all the information from all the disciplines we asked Brain Matson to a meeting to work on the idea of the meth task force blueprint. A couple of questions were asked were: How do we connect with each other? What knowledge does treatment have that the drug court need? Basically, we know that there is a shared knowledge between us. Science will provide the evidence base information and approaches. Practice has a relationship with science. What are the skills that are needed to go from practice to science?

Diagrams were given to Task Force members illustrating different degrees of a common practice framework from which the Meth Task Force could build on.

We need to get information from the various disciplines involved in meth issues as part of this framework. The way we do this is with the help from a lot of partners. We create the infrastructure that is needed to support this work.

Case flow process –under each of the steps there are formal decisions and what knowledge is needed in each case. Policy level, and then the action level, we need to be good at both parts of this. How can DEC be helpful to this group? Are there counties out there that would be interested in using this model? A number of counties jumped at the opportunity to use this blueprint.

The Blueprint is a potential framework that would work across all disciplines.

Comments –

- What is DEC? (Drug Endanger Children). This came to be because of grassroots efforts. The main focus was the children in abusive homes. The difference between the alcohol and drug abuse is the criminal accountability. Alcohol is socially accepted drugs are not.
- Larimer, Adams and El Paso are three potential pilot counties for the blueprint.
- What is being proposed here? That we use this blueprint to map out the connections within the State of Colorado.
- How will this translate to action and recommendations to the legislature? How does this address the meth problems? We are coming up with specific evidence that is working within all communities in Colorado. We are creating a product that is flexible enough for

us across all areas in Colorado. This has a place for everyone in it and we all can buy into it.

- A year from now, we don't want to be involved in theoretical discussion on this, the idea is to take the priority items and by using this model we can bring life to them.
- Theoretically, the issues that face CO face all states, how can we use what is being done across the states to our benefit? The basic components of the blueprint are something that is common across the states. How do we give a model to every county to follow? What are the detail things that they need to follow to address situations?

Question to the vice chairs

- Where do we as a committee follow up to this blueprint? There is a meeting set for Feb 15th of the Drug Endangered Children group, which can serve as a committee of the State Meth Task Force to further articulate specific aspects of the blueprint. It will be a 3-hour meeting. The results will be discussed at the next Task Force meeting. We will be able to track our progress monthly as we go forward with this blueprint. We will be able to create the next steps and the state annual report from this blueprint. The partnerships that are going to be formed regarding this blueprint will assist in building momentum for coordinated efforts to address meth issues.
- The meeting will be held on February 15th in Boulder from 9:00am –12 noon, at National Alliance, 1942 Broadway. The Meth Task Force vice chairs will hold this meeting and everyone is welcome. E-mail will be sent with more details.
- The blueprint will be used to organize our priorities.
- Can we fill in one of these blueprints with our priorities, because we don't want to lose sight of what the legislature and what the local communities need?

Closing Comments and Adjournment:

Meth 360 – José and Janet will follow up with this media campaign.

Vendors are contacting Jeanne – to sell programs/products what should we do or tell them? It is suggested that you say, “We are taking information under advisement.” Create a database of what they are selling or what they are doing or refer them to the person in the area of content.

Janelle Kruegger of the Colorado Department of Education has offered to insert a meth question in the survey that will be sent out of state. Janelle will get us more information.

Next Meeting –

March 23rd 10:00 –1:00 pm, Attorney General's office

Handouts given at this meeting

1. Meth 360 National Methamphetamine Prevention Campaign
2. Sherry Green handout Email from Sci & Tech Committee Press
3. West/Southwest Methamphetamine Legislative and Policy Planning Conference
4. Cocaine- National Drug Threat Assessment 2006
5. The National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws
6. The Early Effects of Methamphetamine Precursor Restrictions on Laboratory Seizures in the United States
7. National Methamphetamine Threat Assessments 2007
8. Matrix- At a Glance: Common Themes Addressed Regarding Properties Where Controlled Substance Laboratories are Found
9. Knowledge Development Blueprint